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# Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 30

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JULY 29, 2022

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## Your New Principals and Teachers



Georgina Llamas-Cruz brought her family to the School Board Meeting when she was voted into the position of Gretchen Higgins Elementary School Principal. Pictured are Gina, Camila, Georgina and her husband Alberto Cruz, Luis, and Bianca Jimenez.

**Story and photos  
by Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Students at Tremont Elementary and Gretchen Higgins Elementary Schools will have new Principals to greet when school starts Wednesday, August 10 for Dixon Unified School District.

There will also be 25 new teachers, one new School Psychologist, and one short term Campus Supervisor starting in the District as well.

At a recent School Board meeting Superintendent Brian Dolan explained the full interview process and reported to the small audience

which included her family members that Georgina 'Gina' Llamas-Cruz is "eminently" qualified to serve as Gretchen Higgins Principal.

"She has a teaching background and extensive administrative background. Her life's story matches the experiences of many of our students and families which has great value. She is bilingual as well. So as we start our 2-way bilingual immersion program I feel we have a perfect fit for a leader at that school site," he added.

She lives in Dixon and three of her four children have already graduated from Dixon High School and the last one will be starting Gretchen

Higgins this fall. Dolan mentioned that one of her children became a Dixon Police Officer.

"Thank you for your vote of confidence. I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve our community through being the Principal of Gretchen Higgins," Llamas-Cruz said.

Treva Foster, the other new Principal will be replacing six-year Tremont Principal Tori Peterson who resigned to take a position in another District. She has 26 years experience in education in almost all grades but Kindergarten and is also a resident of Dixon.

"Her expertise in this community

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## Wine Stroll Returns



The fruit of the vine will pour easily at the upcoming Downtown Dixon Business Association's annual Wine & Art Stroll set for Saturday, August 20, starting at the Pardi Plaza/Town Center.

**Story and photo  
by Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Sip a variety of delicious wines and champagnes, enjoy some interesting artwork, and visit with good friends and neighbors at this year's Downtown Dixon Business Association's Wine and Art Stroll coming on Saturday, August 20, 4 to 8 p.m. Tickets are officially on sale now.

There will also be live music by Hattie and The Moon Howlers arranged by Event Chair Andria Aguilera, owner of the Unique Boutique in downtown Dixon.

"I'm so excited that we have officially opened ticket sales," Aguilera. "We've been meeting almost every day on the planning." She has been working with DDBA President Jill Orr and other DDBA volunteers to get the event off the ground after the past few years without it.

"We have several new merchants and wineries who are anxious to host this fun event," said Orr. "This is a great opportunity to showcase the diverse businesses and services we have to offer in downtown Dixon."

The DDBA sports about 25 businesses in the downtown core area and has a mission of enhancing the business environment while promoting the revitalization of downtown as the cultural center of the community. Orr says the event has grown into a favorite for locals and visitors alike. It is also a great way to expose the local vineyards to our residents, she said.

People can save money by buying tickets in advance for \$30 online until August 10 or on the DDBA website by scanning the QR Code found on posters around town or on the Downtown Dixon Business Association's Facebook Page. The price includes a commemorative wine glass and tasting map. The day of the event, cost is \$35, and admission/check in will be at the new Pardi Plaza/Town Center in the center of downtown, corner of First and A Streets. Participants must be at least 21 years of age and this event is not recommended for children.

For more information, call Aguilera at (707) 450-6537 or the DDBA at (707) 678-8400. ★

## Southwest Park Delayed

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The swings dangle quietly, there's no sounds of happy children on the play structures, and the only life that gets to enjoy what appears as a perfect park are the birds.

If you were wondering why the beautiful new park in the Southwest Development was not open despite lush green grass and enticing playground equipment, there has been another delay. But, if Taylor Builders is successful, they'll convince the City of Dixon to allow them to at least open the playground area.

About a month ago, the City of Dixon City Manager Jim Lindley and Public Works Director Louren Kotow did not approve the "product" because the grass was not as filled in as they wanted, according to Anton Garcia, Vice President of Asset Management for Taylor Builders who admitted in comparison with other parks they've done, this



If Taylor Builders is successful, they'll convince the City of Dixon to allow them to at least open the playground area. Photo by Debra Dingman

one was not up to par. But, in the company's defense, the weeds along the edges of the property that were not maintained by the City spread via the winds.

"It pains me a lot not to be able to deliver this product [right now]. We put so much work into making it look pristine," Garcia said. "It is growing pains in dealing with a project this size. I'm working on a partial acceptance [with the

City] so children can use the playground and have the rest of it blocked off." Garcia's determination to get the park opened comes from having his own two children who enjoy using parks. Garcia is native of northern California and holds a Bachelor of Economics degree from California State University, Sacramento. He is responsible for Taylor Builders' ground-up entitlement

projects, which require a multitude of local government, state, and federal approvals.

The issue of shoulder-height weeds was brought before the council on more than one occasion and Councilman Jim Ernest and Kevin Johnson were successful in getting short-term landscaping done in that area but too late to stop the

*Continued on page 2*



# Life's too SHORT

## Delivery Made Easy

By Debra Dingman

Part of my job is to make sure our new subscribers get our newspaper for the few weeks it takes for us to get them up and rolling on the postal delivery process. That means I get to meet some of these new subscribers and that's what happened last week in a brand-new development. The second week, I zipped in the back route due to construction, quickly dropped off the paper near his doormat and headed off to work.

Not too much later that morning I got a call from the subscriber saying he didn't get a paper and I asked him if he looked out his front door. He said yes. Then I asked him, "By your doormat?" He said "yes", and I told him I had dropped it off that morning, so he double-checked, and I heard his door open. Nope, it wasn't there. I asked him about the color of his car being tan and he said no, he had a black car so then I was embarrassed and told him, "Well, I am 65 so I could have done that." So, I brought it right over – thank goodness for the small town and I got to meet him, and his dog and it was a pleasure.

As I drove back down the street, I checked at the house I had delivered but they apparently had already picked it up. I hope they enjoyed the read. Maybe we'll get another new subscriber!

On my 5-minute commute to work, I heard a report that the largest newspaper company is The Wall Street Journal by paid circulation with more than 2.2 million subscribers. Our nearby Sacramento Bee ranks 25th with 279,032 subscribers.

Interestingly, they noted that there were two top producing papers in Florida. Ranking #38 was the South Florida Sun

Sentinel in Ft. Lauderdale with 226,591 and #57 the Post in West Palm Beach with 175,495.

I was asked once by a young-voiced caller, "Do people even read newspapers anymore?" My answer was this: Who else is going to write about your child's Little League team? Who else is going to report on your City Council's decisions? Small, community newspapers are on the rise.

But until another 25-30 years when all the Walter Cronkite news-watchers die and my generation passes, there will be newspaper readers. Walter Cronkite was an American journalist who reported the news for 19 years for the CBS Evening News in the 1960s and 1970s and was considered "the most trusted man in America."

Thousands of "feisty" small publications have not only survived the pandemic shutdown but have bounced back thriving because all of them have kept their role as community servants at the forefront and they've found creative ways to keep going through good times and bad.

Our newspaper, for example, is also online. For the younger generations who are used to digital reading, or they choose social media, we are there. We also have made our newspaper more accessible with newsstands or distribution in numerous small shops and grocery stores like Safeway, Viva la Favorita, and Grocery Outlet.

We responded to the labor shortage with many of our subscribers getting mailed copies. Subscriptions are only \$39 a year which is less than \$1 per newspaper for 52 weekly newspapers. Otherwise, check out our new newsstands around town and enjoy reading about the good news of Dixon! ★

# Dixon News Briefs



Ruhstaller Farm keeps growing and is a very popular summer spot for a variety of cold beers and delicious food but also is a great place for watching Art & Ag movies like the one coming on August 18 about bees. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

### Ag and Art

Summer Movie Nights are taking place at Ruhstaller Farm, 6686 Sievers Road in Dixon and the next one will be Thursday, August 18, and will feature Queen of the Sun, an award-winning movie on what the bees are telling us. Celebrating agriculture and art through storytelling and cinema. To learn more, go to AgAndArt FilmFestival.com. There is no admission charge, but adults might want to enjoy cold refreshing beer while there.

### National Night

This is a reminder that there will be NO City Council on August 2 due to National Night Out where neighbors are encouraged to get to know each other. In addition, local public servants such as the Dixon Police and Dixon Fire personnel will be out in neighborhoods to encourage positive relationships. The Mayor and some of the City Councilmen will also be out visiting. The other goal is to get to know your neighbors better so folks can look out after each which can help prevent crime.

### Bag Sale

The Friendly Bookworm Bookstore run by the Friends of the Dixon Public Library volunteers, will host another 'Bag Sale' on August 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 200 North First Street, next door to the library downtown. For cash or check only, patrons may fill a bag with books for only \$5. Note that not all books are included in the sale. Children's books inside are not part of the sale, for example. All proceeds will support the programs at the Dixon Public Library.

### Parks & Rec

The City of Dixon is looking to hire a Senior Maintenance Worker for Parks. If you are interested, please apply by August 14, 2022. Want to know what is going on in our parks and recreation? This coming Tuesday, July 26, at 7 p.m. there will be a City of Dixon Parks and Recreation Meeting inside the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. Agendas come out on

the Thursday before (usually.) Check the city website for any possible changes.

### Veterans Dinner

This week there will be a Pork Dinner at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street. This dinner is \$10 and the atmosphere is informal and fun with live music, too. Time is 6 to 8 pm. They help support the veterans and keep the hall open. There is also an open, no host bar.

### Grocery Mingle

If you're looking for a fun and engaging way to promote your business, you can join the Chamber of Commerce at the Grocery Outlet on Wednesday, July 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 2400 North First Street across from Tractor Supply. There will be snacks, socializing, beverages, and raffle prizes. Bring your business cards and donate a raffle prize to better promote your organization. Call the Dixon Chamber at (707) 678-2650 for more info.

### Chamber Beer

Speaking of the Chamber, they are holding a fundraiser raffle for a large Yeti cooler filled with 99 bottles of micro brews and a variety of other beers. This was a popular fundraiser last year and the drawing will be held in September so get your tickets now. Proceeds help fund the scholarship and community programs that positively impact our community. You must be over 21 to participate. Call (707) 678-2650 or drop by the Chamber at 220 North Jefferson Street.

### Ancestor Search

Dixon History Museum monthly Coffee Hour with Denise McBride will introduce the free FamilySearch website and app where a family tree can be created and viewed. You can search individuals, historical records, and view contributions made by others. Please bring your electronic devices. Wi-Fi will be provided for the Coffee Hour presentation. RSVP to save your space at 125 West A Street by contacting: info@dixonhistoricalsociety.org or call 707.693.3044. ★

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# Southwest Park Delayed

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weed invasion to the hydro-seeded grass areas of the park.

Currently, the plan is to remove the current grass and the developers will lay sod instead.

"That will take another six weeks but won't take as long as the hydroseed did and there is less chance of weeds," he said. After the City considers the project 'complete,' the care of the park is funded through the neighbors who live there but not through a Homeowners

Association or Assessment.

Unlike Lights and Landscape Maintenance Districts that other parts of town use to pay for neighborhood upkeep, the Southwest Development uses a more modern funding mechanism called a CFD. A Community Facilities District is a special tax district provided in state law that funds the installation of public improvements or ongoing services within an identified area. According to Garcia, that Southwest fund should have plenty in it now. ★

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# Fireworks Ordinance Modifications Needed

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The system Dixon created 11 years ago to determine which six nonprofits would be selected to run a fireworks booth – where they had the potential to make between \$20,000 and \$50,000 for their organization – needs to be tweaked.

Upon investigation from this newspaper, numerous issues were brought to light including the fact that two organizations who were allowed into the lottery this year, appeared not to be qualified.

### Fireworks Program

When Dixon Council legalized 'Safe and Sane' fireworks, it was determined to have local nonprofits run the booths. They created a lottery with six permits for the following categories: Youth/Sports/Education (2 permits); Service Clubs (1 permit); Faith-based (1 permit); Veterans Organization (1 permit); and Last Chance (1 permit).

Permit applications must include the following requirements: (1) Proof of adult members that reside, are employed or own a business in the City of Dixon as of date of application must number more than 25 or 100-percent of the membership; (2) The Exempt Taxpayer ID Number; (3) Proof of current Non-Profit Status, Letter of Determination, FTB 199 N or FTB 199.

Booths are normally open 6.5 days 9 am to 10 pm including 4th of July until 9 pm. The applicants are given written instructions as early as March 17 when they are notified from the Fire Department, and they are given until May 2 to return all required documents. Most groups



The Soroptimist women were happy to have the opportunity to run the booth in the CVS parking lot.

utilize 20 to 40 volunteers.

Our study showed that two of the organizations that were awarded permits, did not have a verifiable means of becoming "members." Because the applicant signs under penalty of perjury, the requirements from the organization are usually not verified.

"We take them at their word," said Andi Horgan, Administrative Manager at City of Dixon Fire Department.

### Questionable Applicants

One organization that seemed to assure his non-profit would be selected entered the category of "faith-based" with the name Gen One 29, a Bible verse that says: "Then God

said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food." (NIV)

The City's lottery system allows for only one entry for faith-based and if there is only one applicant, that applicant gets in, according to Horgan. Last year and this year, this was the only entry, so it was selected both years.

However, both last year and this year, a call came one week before they were too open saying they could not participate because they could not get enough workers to man the booth.

"I met with them and expressed my concern that an opportunity was taken away at the last minute.



Lions Club members were kept busy in the Grocery Outlet parking lot with their fireworks stand.

There were 14 applicants, and they wasted a spot two years in a row," said Horgan.

In our search, the State Attorney General's Office Charitable Registry does not show this entity.

On June 1, there was a post by Gen One 29 about

Phantom Fireworks, their supplier, at a Dixon location with the statement: "All proceeds are donated to agriculture research and development" and that the company is run by Richard T. Williams in Dixon. Several attempts were made to reach him by phone or

text, but the recording said the calls were rejected. Social media messages went unanswered.

In the Youth/Sports/Education category West Coast Impact Basketball Academy got a spot for a booth two years in a row. Jen Gelpi lives in Dixon, is listed as an LLC and is a listed non-profit on the State's registry, however, social media posts are nearly exclusive to Davis teams with a couple rare congratulatory posts for Dixon Rams. Gelpi used to coach girls and boys in Dixon High School basketball but said he eventually was forced out due to exorbitant gym fees and frustrations with the City and schools.

"Three years ago, I made a decision to shut down all facilities in Dixon to save money. The rates were ridiculous if not impossible," he said. He was asked, "If your booth made \$30,000, how would that money be spent in Dixon?" He refused to answer.

### Profits Stay Local

The profit from the hard work of volunteers is to go back into serving the community, said Assistant Fire Chief John Malone who, with Horgan, have been working on this for the last two years.

"There are things we'd like to see changed in the ordinance," she said and that they will pursue them.

"By November 1, the groups are supposed to give us a financial report, but it is not detailed," said Horgan. "The Franchise Tax Board shows what sales were and how much tax, but we want to see what was sold, their expenses, and their profit." She hopes they have the ordinance modified before the beginning of next year when the program starts all over again. ★

## 2022 School Board Race Begins



Julian Cuevas takes an oath of candidacy for the Dixon Unified School District Governing Board. Photo Courtesy of Cuevas Campaign

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - On the first day of the nomination period, Julian Cuevas made his candidacy for Dixon Unified School District Governance Team a family affair.

Joined by his expecting wife and two children, he officially signed and filed his candidacy forms and hopes to get elected on November 8 of this year. He was the first candidate to file for the Dixon School Board race.

"I am proud to be sharing this moment with my family today as I formally cement my commitment to our community's students, teachers and families," Cuevas said. "As we all continue to adapt to the

current challenges, I am reminded of the critical importance that our children be given access to a quality education; that our teachers and classified staff are lifted, and that our parents and families are being given the tools they need to better support their children's education."

"I am ready to represent as Dixon's next School Board member because we need advocacy and leadership that prioritizes access, student success, parent and family engagement, mental health and school safety. I look forward to earning the support of Dixon's voters," he added.

The DUSD Board is composed of five locally elected public officials entrusted with governing

the community's public schools. In addition, the Superintendent also serves as a member of the district's governance team and has responsibilities to support Board operations and decision-making.

If Cuevas wins, he will join Melissa Maseda and David Bowen who were elected in 2020. Maseda, a former teacher and now a stay-at-home mom, was first appointed to the Board and ran at the end of that term unopposed but campaigned in 2020 alongside Bowen, a 5th grade teacher at Travis Elementary School. Their terms end in 2024.

Trustee Jewel Fink who was elected in 2018 will be seeking re-election. She has two adult sons who are local business owners, five grandchildren who live and work locally, and two great granddaughters attending Dixon schools.

Also, serving on the Board is Dr. Lloyd McCabe who was elected in 2018 and who also plans to run for reelection. He served as a high school teacher and administrator, California Department of Education consultant and administrator, and University of California, Davis lecturer.

Ian Arnold also pulled papers. After serving her community for ten years as a Trustee and most recently as the President of the Board, Caitlin O'Halloran's term is expiring. ★

## New Principals and Teachers

*Continued from page 1*  
is really, really highly regarded" Dolan said who added that he and Nick Girimonte, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, had been talking to Foster about moving up to a Principal for at least the past several five years but the timing was not right in her family life but "now is." Foster thanked the Board for their vote of confidence.

Of the 25 new teachers, three will be at Gretchen Higgins Elementary: Nichole Beckius-3rd grade; Steven Haynes-Science Prep; and Michelle Samayoa-5th grade. The five at Tremont Elementary are Susan Peccianti-3rd grade; Sarah Portugal-Resource Special Program; Monica Robbins-1st grade; Victoria Sanguinetti-3rd grade; and Tara Weiand-2nd grade.

Dixon High School will get ten: Haley Blackwell-Life Science/Biology; Karen Dace- Special Ed; Julie Daseking-English; Kristen Gewecke-Special Ed; Alaina Gibbons-Math; Ana Gonzales-Social Science; Stephanie Keiso-Biology/Chemistry; Steven Khansefid-Ag; Biridiana Meza Luna-Math; and Mark Patena, PE.

The four at John Knight Middle School are Laura Burnett-ELD (English Language Development); Erone Cao-Science; Tasha Storm-Science; and Lori



Treva Foster is the new Tremont Elementary School Principal.

With-Math. The three at Anderson Elementary are Cheryl Gabby-RTI (Response to Intervention); Kayla Garcia-3rd Grade; and Justin McGrew-Kindergarten.

In other school news, it was announced that the first of a 2-phase Modernization Project was decided upon for a Full Site Design Survey of Anderson Elementary in the amount of \$34,475. Dolan also updated on the DHS Agricultural buildings Project Phase II which included summer electrical work that will help get their livestock program up and running and greenhouse work that will be completed by the end of

September. The "hold up" has been restroom requirements, Dolan said.

There are three seats open for the next School Board 4-year term that will be up for vote this November. Board President Caitlin O'Halloran will not seek re-election but Jewel Fink and Lloyd McCabe both will. Melissa Maseda and David Bowen's terms do not expire for another two years.

Dixon USD Governing Board meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 600 East A Street and they are also held via Zoom. ★

# Troubled Bullet Train Project Given a Reprieve



By Dan Walters  
CALMatters.org

In 2019, just weeks after being inaugurated as California's governor, Gavin Newsom issued what many took as a death knell for the state's troubled bullet train project.

"But let's be real," Newsom told legislators in his first State of the State address. "The current project, as planned, would cost too much and respectfully take too long. There's been too little oversight and not enough transparency."

"Right now, there simply isn't a path to get from Sacramento to San Diego, let alone from San Francisco to L.A.," Newsom said. "I wish there were. However, we do have the capacity to complete a high-speed rail link between Merced and Bakersfield."

It seemed as though Newsom wanted to finish the initial phase in the San Joaquin Valley and then give up on a statewide link between the San Francisco Bay Area (and perhaps Sacramento) and Southern California.

The reaction from project supporters, particularly construction unions, was swift and sharply negative and Newsom claimed that reporters misinterpreted his intentions.

"I just think people in

the media should pause before they run headlines and actually consider the facts and maybe even ask the person that's stating things before they run with things," Newsom said. "That's the deep lesson I learned in this."

He insisted that he wasn't abandoning a statewide system, but wanted to concentrate first on completing a working portion in the San Joaquin Valley. That limited goal, however, also has vexed the governor as costs continued to rise and work slowed to a crawl.

Seizing on Newsom's words, President Donald Trump's administration tried to claw back a nearly \$1 billion federal grant for the project that predecessor Barack Obama had awarded. When Joe Biden became president, the grant was restored.

Last year, Newsom asked the Legislature to appropriate the \$4.2 billion remainder of a \$9.95 billion bond issue that voters approved in 2008 to build the system, but legislative leaders balked, saying, in essence, that it would be money down a rathole and would be better spent on local and regional transit projects.

The stalemate over the bond money lasted for a year but in June, Newsom bought off legislative naysayers by providing \$3.65 billion from the state's huge budget surplus for the local projects in return for freeing the bond money.

However, the compromise also included an inspector general's position to oversee the High Speed Rail Authority,

which outside critics have faulted for delays and cost overruns.

"They know that with the inspector general that they're going to be watched," Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, one of the sharpest critics, said. "They're going to be held accountable."

There has been some construction, including a bridge over the San Joaquin River near Fresno, but having tracks that will carry trains is years away and heavy expenses loom for electrification and rolling stock. Newsom has also expanded the San Joaquin section on both ends to Merced in the north and Bakersfield in the south, which carries its own price tag.

It could be a decade, or more, before trains actually begin carrying passengers between the two cities, but without connecting Bakersfield to Los Angeles and Merced to San Francisco, the segment would be little more than an amusement park ride.

As it stands – and as Newsom said in that 2019 speech – there are no plans to finance multi-billion-dollar extensions to make the bullet train a real transportation alternative. He seems to be content to provide enough money to maintain construction for the remainder of his governorship and leave it to his successor – or successors – to decide what to do after that.

*Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers.* ★

# Governor Signs Dodd's Wildlife Conservation Bill

Office of Sen. Bill Dodd

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On July 19, 2022, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that will help ensure the conservation of wildlife habitats in California through public-private partnerships with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Collaboration is the key to maintaining sustainable hunting lands in California," said Sen. Dodd, who co-chairs the Legislature's Outdoor Sporting Caucus. "Many in the outdoor sporting community are the most conservation-minded because they want to pass on to future generations the opportunities they have had. In 2010, the Legislature established the Big Game Management Account, funded by hunting license fees, to

pay for research and habitat restoration to benefit big-game species. Senate Bill 370 clarifies the law to allow public and private entities, including nonprofit organizations and federally recognized tribes, to continue their valuable habitat work. Doing so is critical to achieving program objectives including contracting for aerial surveys and captures of wild sheep, as well as important research at institutions like UC Davis and Humboldt State University.

SB 370 is sponsored by the California Deer Association and the California chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation and is supported by more than a dozen outdoor sporting organizations. It was approved with overwhelming support of both the Assembly and Senate before being sent to the governor's desk for a signature. ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-000981**  
The following persons are doing business as: Blue Monarch Medical Transport, 300 Crescent Drive, Apt. 266, Vacaville, CA 95688.  
Blue Monarch Medical Transport, LLC, 300 Crescent Drive, Apt. 266, CA 95688. Date Filed in Solano County: June 7, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 6, 2027. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)  
Publish: July 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2022  
BLUE 7-29-22

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001092**

The following persons are doing business as: Ryan Darrall Wine, 2650 Cordelia Road, Fairfield, CA 94534.  
Ryan Darrall Wine LLC, 3154 Highway 128, Unit B, Calistoga, CA 94515. Date Filed in Solano County: June 27, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 26, 2027. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)  
Publish: July 29, August 8, 12 & 19, 2022  
RYAN 8-19-22

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001154**

The following persons are doing business as: Educational Records Evaluation Service, 2480 Hilborn Road, #106, Fairfield, CA 94534.  
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This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration July 5, 2027. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)  
Publish: July 29, August 8, 12 & 19, 2022  
EDUCATIONAL 8-19-22

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# Budget Invests to Help Fully Restore California's Tourism Economy



These funds will be used to supplement Visit California's proven tourism efforts by providing direct support for domestic tourism marketing programs. Photo courtesy of Pixabay

**Visit California News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The new state budget agreed upon by Gov. Gavin Newsom and state lawmakers will include \$15 million in marketing funds to support the ongoing recovery of California's tourism economy.

These funds will be used to supplement Visit California's proven tourism efforts by providing direct support for domestic tourism marketing programs aimed at driving increased travel to destinations and communities throughout California.

The new funding builds on the state's previous investment of \$95 million in tourism marketing stimulus in 2021, which has been critical to reviving the state's hard-hit tourism sector and accelerating the travel industry's path to recovery.

Visitor spending in

California grew 46% last year compared to 2020, totaling \$100.2 billion, according to Visit California's 2021 Economic Impact Report. Updated economic projections now forecast that travel spending will reach 2019 levels by 2023 – a year earlier than previous estimates.

"California's travel and hospitality industry is grateful to Gov. Newsom and the Legislature for including \$15 million in the state budget to continue the tourism economy's recovery from the devastating pandemic," said Visit California President and CEO Caroline Beteta. "The state funding will supplement the travel industry's contribution and allow Visit California to continue marketing programs across the nation to inspire travel to the Golden State. The \$95 million allocated by the Legislature a year ago helped California

reclaim its nation-leading tourism market share and reestablish itself as one of the state's most reliable job producers. This \$15 million contribution will help finish the job and bring California's tourism economy back to pre-pandemic levels in 2023."

This stimulus will provide additional resources that will help Visit California close the gap in the state's uneven tourism recovery by supporting marketing programs aimed at promoting family travel, professional meetings and travel to California's urban hubs, which continue to be disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Initial projections estimate that the state's \$15 million investment in tourism marketing stimulus will generate at least \$4 billion in visitor spending at California businesses and create 37,600 travel and hospitality jobs. ★

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# Riley Reviews

## 'WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING' A POIGNANT TALE OF RESILIENCE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

### "WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING" RATED PG-13

A literary phenomenon that skyrocketed to the top of bestseller lists with over 12 million copies sold, Delia Owens' "Where the Crawdads Sing" began its journey to the big screen when Reese Witherspoon picked it for her book club.

Mind you, my tastes run to nonfiction, mostly to history and biographies, and thus the fiction novel "Where the Crawdads Sing" as the origin for the movie of the same title never came across my radar.

Moreover, Delia Owens, with college degrees in zoology and animal behavior, had a successful career as a wildlife scientist who spent years in the African wilderness chronicling observations of wildlife for nonfiction books that she authored.

As a wildlife biologist studying nature in remote areas, Owens was inspired even from her childhood experience living in the woods to create a captivating mystery about an abandoned child who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina.

There is an obvious built-in audience for the cinematic adaptation of "Where the Crawdads Sing," and I will leave it to others to determine how faithful the screenplay by Lucy Alibar is to the source material.

Some may feel the result is overheated Southern melodrama with the contrivances of an underdog story, a murder mystery, a criminal trial and romantic conflicts mixed into the story of an isolated and resilient outsider stuck in a backwater area.

The setting is 1969 and two kids riding bikes in the marshlands outside of Barkley Cove, North Carolina come across the body of a young man who may have fallen to his death from a forsaken fire tower.

Chase Andrews (Harris Dickinson), once the town's star quarterback and now heir apparent to a successful business, turns out to be the victim of ostensible foul play. The townsfolk are quick to target Kya Clark (Daisy Edgar-Jones) as the culprit.

The young adult Kya is the mythic "Marsh Girl," an outsider who has lived her entire life in a shack so deep in the marshlands it can only be accessed on foot or by a small motorboat.

As a suspect in the murder of Chase, Kya is fortunate to be taken on as a pro bono case by retired local defense attorney Tom Milton (David Strathairn), who recognizes his swamp-dwelling client has never been treated fairly by the tightknit community.

Little is known and much is assumed

about the "Marsh Girl" by almost everybody in Barkley Cove, and for our benefit there are flashbacks as far back as 1953, when young Kya (Jojo Regina) finds her life thrown into dysfunctional turmoil.

Her father (Garret Dillahunt) is a cruel, abusive drunk whose physical violence drives Kya's mom (Ahna O'Reilly) to leave with one suitcase and never return, and she's soon followed by all four of Kya's older siblings.

Life with father is hardly ideal. Kya tries to stay clear of his furious eruptions so as to avoid physical aggression. But fairly soon the father also disappears, abandoning Kya to the fate of raising herself in the marsh.

Amazingly, Kya proves to be precocious for someone so young and uneducated, demonstrating an ability to be self-reliant by gathering mussels to barter with the kindly owners of a bait-and-tackle shop.

The shop owners are Jumpin' (Sterling Macer Jr.) and Mabel (Michael Hyatt), apparently the only Black people in this rural area, and they turn out to be as close to surrogate parents for Kya as practically no one else pays attention to her.

But then in her teenage years, Kya is befriended by Tate Walker (Taylor John Smith), who we don't know much about other than he spent a lot of time in the swamps. Over time, Tate teaches Kya how to read and write, and eventually they fall in love.

Much is expected of Tate, and he goes off to college with the promise to return for the 4th of July fireworks. Time passes without any sight of Tate, and then Kya meets Chase, an arrogant rich boy who seems to be an unlikely suitor.

For his part, Chase is the opposite of Tate, and his interest in Kya never really seems sincere, which becomes readily apparent on the occasion that Kya runs into him with his family during a rare trip into town.

The courtroom drama of Kya's murder trial may be the least compelling aspect of this film insofar as the theatrics are subdued and the evidence presented by the prosecution appears to lack the substance that a smart defense lawyer could not refute in a closing argument.

"Where the Crawdads Sing" tugs at the heartstrings with its rooting interest in the hope that Kya will be acquitted of the murder charge and find a lifetime of happiness with true love.

A very satisfying and mesmerizing performance by Daisy Edgar-Jones, who must overcome so many slights and disrespect from the townspeople, keeps the audience thoroughly engaged, and hopefully fans of the novel will feel the same. ★



BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • amy-shane@att.net • amy\_fortheloveofbook

## Booked For Your Next Vacation

These summer books are the perfect reads to throw in your bag on your next vacation. Whether you are jet-setting off or spending it at home, these stories will take readers on thrilling adventures and the journey of self-discovery.



### Before Takeoff by Adi Alsaid

James and Michelle never thought this would be the day their lives would change. For two teens that couldn't be more opposite, their overwhelming curiosity about a flashing green light was the perfect conversation for a day filled with airport delays. Little did they know what would happen when they decided to push it. After all what could really happen?

Within moments the world they once knew flipped, making the impossible their new reality. Snow began to fall in B terminal, jungles vines took over C terminal, and flower fields bloomed through every inch of the D terminal. Tensions rose as earthquakes split the terminal, and dinosaurs were reported. Could pushing the flashing green button do this? Now on a mission for survival and answers, they must team up to fix what they did and maybe even leave a door open for romance.

Jumanji meets an airport terminal in this summer's fast-paced read, Before Takeoff. Readers are taken on the adventure of a lifetime with nightmare visions, heart-pounding scenarios, and the determination to survive. Sitting at the airport will never feel the same.

### Spineless by Samatha San Miguel

Algie Elmsworth's dreams come true when he is sent to an asthma health resort in Florida. With so many unexplored swamps, Florida is a future-scientist's treasure trove, and that is precisely what Algie plans on doing. But when he discovers a

new species in the springs by the resort, he is shocked and knows it is up to him to keep it a secret in order to save them.

Now with rumors of a curse that has fallen on the hotel, a collector of exotic animals who would want this discovery for himself, and strange wounds popping up on hotel guests, it is up to Algie to uncover the truth in order to save them all.

Samantha San Miguel beautifully combines the late nineteenth-century, beautiful fauna, exotic species, scientific discoveries, curses, and a determined team of budding scientists on this summer's breakout middle-grade adventure. A story of empowerment, determination, adventure, and imagination Spineless is sure to have its readers running for the nearest pond with their microscope.

### Tin Man by Justin Madson

After the recent death of her grandmother, Solar is reeling to discover her purpose. Campbell, an awkward metal woodsman, longs for more in his life and decides a heart will make him feel whole.

A wonderful deep journey that will have readers falling for the characters' backstories and their struggle to discover who they are and where they belong. Full-color art beautifully highlights the story while lending to the overall emotion. On a journey of acceptance, self-discovery, friendship, and discovering where you belong, the Tin Man is the perfect graphic novel for fans of Freaks and Geeks and the Wizard of Oz. ★

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

In accordance with the Government Code section 54953(d), the Dixon Planning Commission will hold a PUBLIC HEARING to consider the following project:

**PROJECT:** 2299 North First Street (Rotten Robbins) - Request for a Conditional Use Permit for a Public Convenience and Necessity (PCN) determination to allow the previously approved, but not yet built, Rotten Robbins Convenience store, to have a Type 21 alcohol license which would permit the sale of beer, wine, and distilled spirits for off-site consumption. A PCN determination is required because the California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control has determined that the area has an over-concentration of these types of licenses. A PCN determination is therefore needed. This is done through the Conditional Use Permit entitlement; APN: 0108-110-450; Zoning District: Service Commercial - Planned Development (CS-PD); Rotten Robbins, owner, Lewis Land Developers, LLC, applicant; File No: PA22-25, UP22-03

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CRR Section 15332, [Class 32: In-fill development]. If the Planning Commission determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION:** Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

**MORE INFORMATION:** Contact Scott Greeley, Associate Planner at (707) 678-7000 ext. 1115 or [sgreeley@cityofdixon.us](mailto:sgreeley@cityofdixon.us). You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN:** All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any decision on the application.

The meeting will be physically open to the public and all persons attending the meeting must abide by all State rules and public health guidelines, regarding masking and social distancing in City Council chambers.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to [PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us](mailto:PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us) or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, Planning Commission, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the Planning Commission and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting.

You may also attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above or participate remotely, to provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments remotely during public comment period, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" 2) via teleconference press '9, or 3) email comments/questions to [publiccomment@cityofdixon.us](mailto:publiccomment@cityofdixon.us)

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

Appeals of decisions by the Planning Commission to the City Council shall be made in person at Dixon City Hall by completing the appeal application and submitting the required fee, within 10 calendar days of a decision (Dixon Municipal Code Sections 17.01.050 or 18.40).

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requesting special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice July 29, 2022



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# Knocking Down Barriers and Beer Cans

*The story of River Cats outfielder Austin Dean*

Story and photos  
by Shaun Holkko,  
sports editor

## WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Have you ever seen that viral video from September 2019 when a Miami Marlins outfielder threw a baseball at a tower of beer cans? If you haven't, you're missing out.

The Major League Baseball (MLB) player who participated in such a unique, in-game, event was Austin Dean, who is now with the San Francisco Giants' Triple-A affiliate, the Sacramento River Cats. The viral moment occurred on Sept. 20, 2019, during a matchup between the Marlins and eventual World Series Champions, Washington Nationals, a game that the Nationals won 6-4.

Dean's game within the game didn't take place in just any regular season affair. The video of Dean recorded by a fan went viral across the country on the same day that Miami suffered its 100th loss of the season. Therefore, some fans in attendance at what was once known as "Marlins Park," now known as LoanDepot Park, needed some extra entertainment to get through the end of what had been a tough season for Marlins fans.

"The funny thing about it was, is that they had already started that pyramid by inning one. So, it was working its way up," Dean told the Messenger Publishing Group with a smile before taking on the El Paso Chihuahuas at Sutter Health Park on June 22. "It was (being built at) the AutoNation Alley (Deck) so there were quite a few people. There were at least three guys."

Dean was impressed with the commitment and determination of the three gentlemen building



River Cats outfielder Austin Dean leads off from second base during a 13-5 victory over the El Paso Chihuahuas on June 22 at Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento.

the pyramid. The video, originally posted by the Marlins' Twitter account, shows the pyramid at a strong and sturdy 54 cans by the time Dean caved into the fanatics' demands.

"The seventh inning rolls around and it's huge, it's at its peak," Dean said. "I finally looked at them like, 'you know what, whatever, I'll give it a shot.' I finally looked at them and gave them the nod."

By that point, Dean was in, and operation beer can pyramid was a go! The 28-year-old outfielder, who was 26 at the time, slowly walked towards the fans standing in left-center field, lined it up, and as NBA broadcaster Mike Breen would say, "BANG," bullseye. Dean didn't take down the entire pyramid, but he perfectly nailed the single beer can standing atop the five-story creation.

"My biggest thing was like, 'alright, I can't go short here, you can't miss it,' right? Just aim for the vicinity of the area and just hope we knock some down, right? I throw the ball, had a little cut on to it, and it was just perfect," Dean explained. "Knocks the top can over, they go nuts."

His teammates at the time doubted him, but the video evidence spoke for itself, garnering 3.4 million views just on Twitter with what Dean described as a "fun moment."

"After the end of the game, (my) phone is just blowing up," Dean recalled. "Probably 300-500 messages, just like notifications about all that going on. I was like, 'this is absolutely incredible.' If you get me to do that again, there's no chance that I could do that again. I wasn't looking for clout."

Dean explained that the video gets posted randomly, once or twice a year, by various baseball accounts on social media. However, the various accounts usually don't tag him in the video because nobody seems to remember that he was the guy that made the moment happen!

As for Dean's career on the field, he was traded from the Marlins in January 2020 to the St. Louis Cardinals, who have arguably the best fans in all of MLB according to many.

"I would agree, they have probably one of the best fan bases in baseball," Dean said. "Especially playing in Busch Stadium as a Cardinal is awesome. I've played as an opponent as well and I can even say, it was even great there. Everybody was super nice in the outfield. That's the epitome of baseball right there, (with) amazing fans and

an amazing atmosphere as well."

Dean spent the 2018 and 2019 seasons with Miami before playing two seasons in St. Louis in 2020 and 2021. On Nov. 5, 2021, the Giants claimed Dean off waivers. In March 2022, he was designated for assignment and began his career as a River Cat.

"Austin comes to play every day and he's the same guy," River Cats manager Dave Brundage told MPG on June 22. "He might be goofy at times, (but) he's here to play and wants to win, he wants to succeed and he brings a lot of energy every single day. I appreciate that from a manager's standpoint, somebody that loves to play the game and plays it correctly."

So far this season for Sacramento, Dean has a (.249) batting average with 11 home runs, 36 RBI and 68 strikeouts in 68 games played.

"He is really good in the clubhouse and has been a really good leader," River Cats hitting coach Damon Minor said about Dean to MPG in a phone interview on June 23. "On the field, he has been a really good strength (for us)."

Dean and his wife are expecting a baby in December and the gender is being kept a secret to be shared among close friends and family. However, the 28-year-old did indicate that when he found out the gender on June 20, it made him, "really, really, really happy," so take that as you may.

"I was very fortunate enough that the Giants got to pick me up," Dean said. "I got put on waivers during spring training and it's not something that you want to go through. But at the same time, I still got a job, which I'm happy about, and this is a time where I need to reflect and find ways to get better and kind of prove myself again." ★

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NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

# Border Crisis Contributed to Botched Response to Uvalde School Massacre: Report

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON

UVALDE, Texas—The school in which 19 children and two teachers were massacred on May 24, had been in lockdown four times in the month prior to the shooting, said Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin.

Schools in the whole district had been in lockdown mode 47 times since February due to the border crisis spilling into the city, which is a smuggling corridor from the U.S.–Mexico border to San Antonio, a recent Texas House of Representatives report stated.

Ninety percent of the lockdowns were due to law enforcement chases of suspected smuggling vehicles through Uvalde and subsequent bailouts—where the driver crashes or stops the vehicle and occupants jump out and scatter from law enforcement, the report said.

The sheer increase in bailouts over the past 18 months and the subsequent lockdowns “contributed to a diminished sense of vigilance about responding to security alerts,” the Texas House report states.

“The series of bailout-related alerts led teachers and administrators to respond to all alerts with less urgency—when they heard the sound of an alert, many assumed that it was another bailout.”

Kenneth Mueller, director of student services for the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District (CISD) testified to the committee that parents

We’re 30 days from school starting and we’re having pursuits come through. We’re having bailouts—we had one this morning in Uvalde.

Don McLaughlin,  
Uvalde mayor



Border Patrol agents apprehend a large group of illegal immigrants near Eagle Pass, Texas, on May 20, 2022.

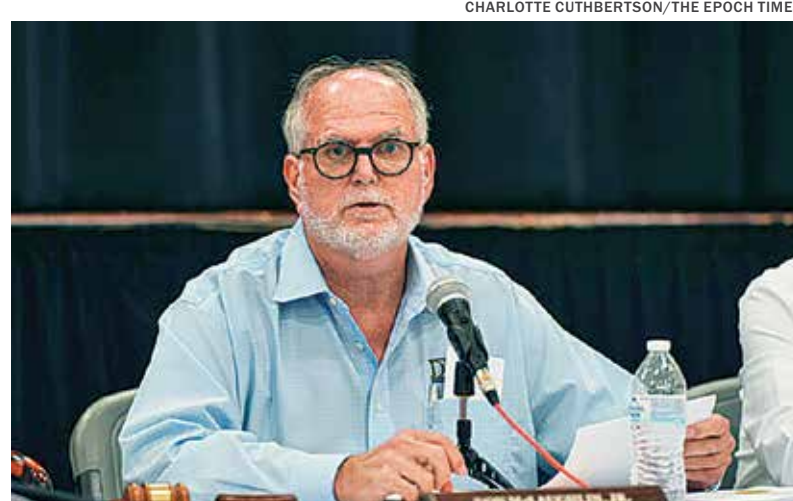
became so concerned about the number of bailouts occurring near the elementary-school campuses that they offered to hire off-duty police to supplement the Uvalde CISD police presence.

Two months after the deadly massacre at Robb Elementary School, the school district is preparing for the beginning of a new year. But the Texas House review of law enforcement’s response to the May 24 shooting revealed a series of alarming failures by first responders. As a result, parents aren’t ready to send their kids back to a district they say is unsafe and where security problems remain unremedied.

“We’re 30 days from school starting and we’re having pursuits come through. We’re having bailouts—we had one this morning in Uvalde,” McLaughlin told The Epoch Times on July 12.

“And what’s going to happen when we have a bailout right by school and it has to go into lockdown? How much panic is there going to be? How much trauma is that going to cause these kids? A ton.”

Parents of children who were slain in the shooting have told the mayor they’re considering homeschooling their other children.



Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin at a city council meeting in Uvalde, Texas, on June 21, 2022.

“I said I understand, but I can promise you from the city’s standpoint, we will do everything that we can to make sure your kids are safe,” McLaughlin said he told concerned parents.

The mayor has requested additional state troopers to be deployed to Uvalde for the first two weeks of the school year.

When asked if he thought some sort of “lockdown fatigue” existed at schools prior to the massacre, McLaughlin said, “I would think there would be, but I can’t speak for the school district.”

Tom Homan, former acting di-

rector of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Heritage Foundation fellow, said local communities are having to “bear the cost” of the escalating border crisis.

“Mass illegal migration was a contributing factor in the tragedy in Uvalde, and no one has said a word about it. That’s simply unacceptable,” Homan said in a statement.

The Uvalde district school board is proposing to delay the start of school until after Labor Day, instead of the original date in mid-August.

## FBI Opened Inquiry Into NIH Funding of Wuhan Lab, Emails Show

EVA FU

The FBI launched an inquiry into the National Institutes of Health’s funding of bat research at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, newly released emails show.

The interest from the top U.S. domestic investigative agency adds to the international scrutiny of the Wuhan facility, which houses one of China’s highest-level biosecurity labs and has been considered a possible source of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“In preparation for our call on Tuesday, Erik [Stemmy] (cc’d) has provided responses to your initial questions below (also attached),” Ashley Sanders, an investigation officer at the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) division of program integrity, wrote in an email dated May 22, 2020, with the subject “Grant Questions – FBI Inquiry,” and directed to FBI agent David Miller.

The email was obtained by government transparency watchdog Judicial Watch through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, which sought records of communi-

cations, contracts, and agreements with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV).

The scope of the inquiry is unclear because the rest of the email correspondence, five pages in total, is entirely redacted. But the name of the email attachment “SF 424 AI110964-06 (received date 11/05/2018),” corresponds to the NIH grant “Understanding the Risk of Bat Coronavirus Emergence.”

The project in question is headed by Peter Daszak of EcoHealth Alliance, which funneled money to the lab in Wuhan. From 2014 to 2019, the New York nonprofit received six yearly grants totaling \$3,748,715 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases under the NIH to fund the project, which was expected to end in 2026.

The FBI inquiry had focused on at least two of the grants, in 2014 and 2019, respectively, the email subject line suggests.

The 2014 grant aimed to “understand what factors increase the risk of the next CoV emerging in people by studying CoV diversity in a critical zoonotic reservoir (bats), at



The P4 laboratory at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on April 17, 2020.

sites of high risk for emergence (wildlife markets) in an emerging disease hotspot (China),” according to the project description. Specifically, the researchers would assess the coronavirus spillover potential, develop predictive models of bat coronavirus emergence risk, and use virus infection experiments as well as “reverse genetics” to test the virus’s transmission between species.

In the project summary for the 2019 grant, EcoHealth stated that it had found that “bats in southern China har-

bor an extraordinary diversity of SARSr-CoVs,” and some of those viruses can “infect humanized mouse models causing SARS-like illness, and evade available therapies or vaccines.”

Recently disclosed documents show that, under one grant, the WIV had conducted an experiment that resulted in a more potent version of a bat coronavirus.

In the project that took place under the fifth grant, from June 2018 to May 2019, the researchers infected two groups of laboratory mice, one of

which with a modified version of a bat coronavirus already existing in nature, and another with the original virus.

Those infected with the modified version became sicker, Lawrence Tabak, at the time a principal deputy director at the NIH, wrote in a letter in response to a congressional inquiry.

The experiment appears to fit the definition of gain-of-function research regardless of its intentions, according to some experts.

The FBI declined to comment to The Epoch Times.

“I PASS ON YOUR ARTICLES TO ENLIGHTEN SOME OF THE UNENLIGHTENED.” —Philip Lewis

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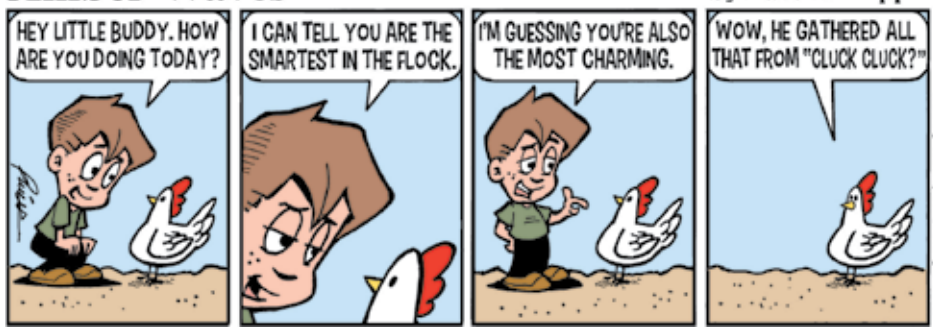
TRUTH and TRADITION



# WEEKLY COMICS

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



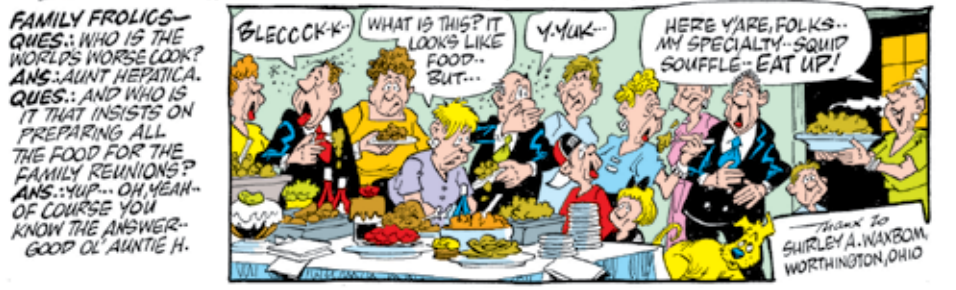
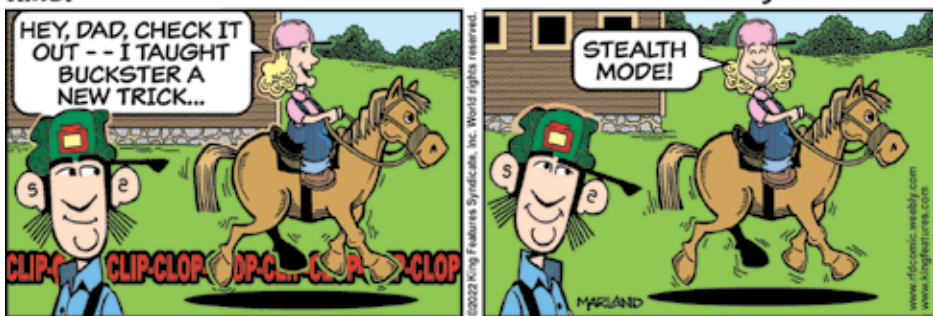
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



## GRIN and BEAR IT



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



"You know I don't want them watching violence! ... Turn it back to the hockey game!"

"We were getting along fine. I even read books on ecology to please her -- then I made the mistake of carving our initials in a tree."

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# Monster Jam Returns to Golden 1

*An Action-packed Weekend of Family Fun is Revving Up*

**Atherton Public Relations  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - This. Is. MONSTER JAM™! The most action-packed motorsports experience for families in the world today returns to Sacramento an adrenaline-charged weekend at the Golden 1 Center on August 5-7, 2022. Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, Monster Jam features world-class athletes locked in intense competitions of speed and skill.

The popular Monster Jam Pit Party fan experience will return to Sacramento on both Saturday and Sunday, where fans can see the massive trucks up close, meet their favorite drivers and crews, take pictures and enjoy other family-friendly fun. This unique experience is the only place that allows people to get up close access to the Monster Jam teams and get an insider's look at how these trucks are built to stand up to the competition. Pit Passes are priced at \$20 each for this VIP experience.

Sactown motorsports fans will witness heated rivalries, high-flying stunts and fierce head-to-head battles for the Event Championship. Engineered to perfection, the 12,000-pound Monster Jam trucks push all limits going head-to-head for points in Freestyle, Skills, Donuts and Racing competitions. Monster Jam drivers are trained, world-class male and female athletes who have mastered not only the physical strength and mental stamina needed to compete, but the vital dexterity to control 12,000-pound machines capable of doing backflips, vertical two-wheel skills and racing at speeds up to 70 miles-per-hour to produce jaw-dropping, live motorsports action seen around the world.

The Sacramento event features eight skilled athletes fighting for the championship while putting on a spectacle, constantly innovating and always entertaining. Tyler Menninga gets behind the wheel of the legendary black and green wrecking machine *Grave Digger*®, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Elvis Lainez grabs the bull by the horns driving *El Toro Loco*®, Bernard Lyght



Featured Truck and driver: Megalodon driven by Bernard Lyght. Photo courtesy of Atherton PR

makes his debut in *Megalodon*® and military veteran Kayla Blood in *Soldier Fortune*™ look to lock in the event championship.

**Friday, August 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM**  
First event.

**Saturday, August 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM**  
Pit Party open from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM  
(Sat. Event Ticket & Pit Pass required for entry)

**Sunday, August 7, 2022 at 1:00 PM**  
Pit Party open from 10:30 AM–12:00 PM  
(Sunday Event Ticket & Pit Pass required for entry)

Golden 1 Center is located at  
500 David J Stern Walk,  
Sacramento, CA 95814.

Tickets are affordably priced for the whole family!

Tickets and Pit Passes can be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com

*\*Ticket prices subject to change – additional venue/ticketing fees may apply*

For local Sacramento event info, please visit [www.monsterjam.com/en-US/events/sacramento-ca/aug-05-2022-aug-07-2022](http://www.monsterjam.com/en-US/events/sacramento-ca/aug-05-2022-aug-07-2022) ★



Featured Truck and driver: Grave Digger driven by Tyler Menninga. Photo courtesy of Atherton PR

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